

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display device in which a pair of substrates carrying respective electrodes thereon face each other across a liquid crystal layer having a negative dielectric anisotropy, said liquid crystal layer being sealed between the substrates,

said liquid crystal display device including an insulating layer that varies electric field orientations in a pixel region when a voltage is applied between the pair of substrates,

a pair of polarizers being disposed at respective outer sides of said substrates;

said insulating layer comprising a plurality of insulating patterns each having a dielectric constant different from a dielectric constant of a surrounding area surrounding at least one of said insulating patterns,

said plurality of insulating patterns controlling an in-plane direction of liquid crystal molecules in liquid crystal forming said liquid crystal layer in a tilted state in which a voltage is applied across said electrodes,

said liquid crystal layer including a first region in which liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer undergo transition to said tilted state upon application of a first voltage across said electrodes and a second region in which said liquid crystal

molecules undergo transition to said tilted state upon application of a second voltage larger than said first voltage in magnitude across said electrodes,

a width of said insulating patterns being set larger than a width of a gap between any two adjacent ones of said insulating patterns on the same substrate.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of insulating patterns are connected with each other by an insulating film in said surrounding area, and wherein each of said plurality of insulating patterns has a thickness different from a thickness of said insulating layer in said surrounding area.

4. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulating layer is formed for each of the substrates, and the insulating layer of one of the substrates is arranged in a staggered state with the insulating layer of the other one of the substrates.

5. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a vertical alignment layer is provided for each of the substrates, and the liquid crystal is a nematic liquid crystal with a negative dielectric constant.

6. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulating layer is formed only on one of the substrates, and the electrode of the other one of the substrates is made narrower than the insulating layer.

7. (Withdrawn) A liquid crystal display device in which a pair of substrates carrying respective electrodes thereon face each other across a liquid crystal layer, said liquid crystal layer being sealed between the substrates,

said liquid crystal display device including an insulating layer that varies electric field orientations in a pixel region when a voltage is applied between the pair of substrates;

a pair of polarizers being disposed at respective outer sides of said substrates;

said insulating layer comprising a plurality of insulating patterns each having a dielectric constant of a surrounding area surrounding said insulating pattern;

said plurality of insulating patterns controlling an in-plane direction of liquid crystal molecules in said liquid crystal layer when a voltage is applied across said electrodes,

wherein a horizontal alignment layer is formed on each of the substrates, and the liquid crystal is a nematic liquid crystal with a positive dielectric constant.

8. (Withdrawn) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the horizontal alignment layers of the pair of substrates are subjected to rubbing in predetermined directions.

9. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein an electric resistance of the insulating layer is higher than an electric resistance of the liquid crystal.

10. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrode of one of the substrates is formed by a metal electrode and used as a reflecting plate.

11. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of insulating patterns are connected with each other by an insulating film in said surrounding area, and wherein each of the insulating patterns comprises a vertical alignment layer that has a thickness different from a thickness of said insulating layer in said surrounding area.

12. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein an impedance of the insulating layer is lower than an impedance of the liquid crystal or higher.

13. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulating layer is striped.

14. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 13, wherein a plurality of the striped insulating layers are arranged adjacently to one another.

15. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the striped insulating layer is repeatedly bent by a predetermined length in a zigzag state.

16. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 14, wherein a plurality of insulating layers are employed independently of one another.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulating layer comprises patterned structures.

19. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the patterned structures are joined to one another.

20. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the patterned structures are independent of one another.

21. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrodes are arranged in the absence of slits.

22. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulating layer comprises a patterned portion having slits.

23. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulating layer comprises a portion which covers at least half the pixel region.

24. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulating layer comprises patterned structures that correspond to pixels.

25. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulating layer is provided to one of the electrodes.

26. (Original) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulating layer comprises portions provided to both of the electrodes facing each other.

27. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrates are transparent.

28. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second region has a total area exceeding 50% of a total display area of said liquid crystal display device.